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# **“A STUDY OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND CHILD PROTECTION MECHANISM IN INDIA”**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research paper evaluates the efficacy of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and the underlying child protection mechanisms in India. It examines the shift from a punitive to a rehabilitative approach, focusing on the delicate balance between reformatory justice for children in conflict with the law and the safety of children in need of care. Through an analysis of legislative gaps and institutional implementation, the study highlights systemic challenges such as administrative delays and inadequate infrastructure. Ultimately, it advocates for a more integrated, child-centric framework to ensure the holistic well-being and social reintegration of minors.

### **Keywords**

Juvenile Justice, Child Protection, Rehabilitation, Child Rights, Indian Legal System, Social Reintegration

## **Introduction**

According to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (India):  
Section 2(35) “juvenile” means a child below the age of eighteen years;  
Section 2(13) “child in conflict with law” means a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offence and who has not completed eighteen years of age on the date of commission of such offence;

A juvenile, or a “child in conflict with law,” refers to any individual below the age of eighteen years who is alleged to have committed an offence. Under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Section 2(35) defines a juvenile as a child under eighteen years of age, while Section 2(13) defines a “child in conflict with law” as a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offence and who had not completed eighteen years on the date of the commission of such offence. The law deliberately avoids labeling such children as “criminals.” Instead, it uses a more sensitive term to recognize that children are still in the

process of growth and development. Their actions may often result from immaturity, lack of guidance, peer pressure, or adverse social circumstances rather than hardened criminal intent.

An important aspect of the law is that age is determined based on the date of the offence, not the date of arrest or trial. This ensures fairness and prevents procedural delays from affecting the child's legal status. The Act emphasizes reformative and rehabilitative objectives rather than punitive measures. Cases involving children in conflict with law are handled by the Juvenile Justice Board instead of regular criminal courts, ensuring a child-friendly approach. Additionally, the identity of the child is kept confidential in most circumstances to protect their dignity and future prospects.

Juvenile justice, therefore, refers to a specialized legal framework designed specifically for minors who come into conflict with the law. It covers not only criminal acts committed by children but also certain age-related behavioural issues and matters concerning child welfare, such as abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Special forums, such as Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees, are established to address these matters differently from adult courts. The primary objective of the juvenile justice system is not merely to punish wrongdoing but to guide, reform, and reintegrate young individuals into society. Through counseling, education, skill development, and community-based rehabilitation, the system aims to provide children with a second chance while simultaneously safeguarding the interests of society and victims.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW:**

### **Global Evolution and Development of Juvenile Justice**

In earlier times, children who came into conflict with the law were treated almost exactly like adults. They were subjected to severe punishments, including imprisonment in adult jails and, in some cases, even the death penalty. Society largely viewed young offenders as miniature adults, without recognizing their emotional, psychological, and moral differences. However, a major shift occurred in the late 19th century. In 1899, the first specialized juvenile court was established in Cook County, Illinois. This marked a significant turning point in legal history, as it formally acknowledged that children lack the same level of cognitive maturity and moral understanding as adults. The focus gradually shifted from punishment to protection and guidance.

Throughout the 20th century, juvenile justice systems across the world increasingly adopted a rehabilitative approach. Instead of emphasizing strict punishment, governments began promoting restorative justice, education, counseling, and social reintegration. The idea was that young offenders could be reformed and successfully reintegrated into society if provided with proper support and opportunities. This transformation reflected a broader understanding of child psychology and human development.

### **Evolution of Juvenile Justice in India**

India's journey in juvenile justice reflects a gradual but meaningful transformation from a punitive colonial framework to a child-rights-based approach. The first legislative step was the Apprentices Act of 1850, which allowed magistrates to place children between the ages of 10 and 18 into vocational training programs instead of sending them to prison. This marked an early recognition that young offenders required correction and skill development rather than harsh punishment.

Later, the Reformatory Schools Act of 1897 established separate institutions for juveniles, reinforcing the principle that children should not be treated like hardened criminals. After independence, India strengthened this protective approach through the Children Act of 1960. This law prohibited the imprisonment of children and introduced juvenile courts along with separate observation and children's homes. However, its application was initially limited to Union Territories.

A more comprehensive reform came with the Juvenile Justice Act of 1986, which became the first uniform national legislation on juvenile justice in India. It ensured that children across all states were treated separately from adults under the legal system. However, it defined a juvenile differently based on gender—boys below 16 years and girls below 18 years.

To remove this disparity and align with international standards, the Juvenile Justice Act of 2000 was enacted. This law defined all individuals under 18 years as juveniles, irrespective of gender. It also introduced the terms “child in conflict with law” and “child in need of care and protection,” reflecting a more sensitive and rights-based language.

The Juvenile Justice Act of 2015 brought another significant change. Following widespread public concern after the 2012 Nirbhaya case, the law allowed juveniles aged 16 to 18 to be tried as adults for heinous crimes such as rape or murder. However, this decision can only be taken after a preliminary assessment by the Juvenile Justice Board regarding the child's mental and physical capacity to commit the offence. This amendment attempted to balance child protection with public safety concerns.

### **Influence of International Conventions**

International conventions and guidelines have played a crucial role in shaping India's juvenile justice framework. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), adopted in 1989 and ratified by India in 1992, established the principle that the "best interests of the child" must be the primary consideration in all legal matters involving children. This convention directly influenced the enactment of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000.

Similarly, the Beijing Rules of 1985 laid down minimum global standards for the administration of juvenile justice. These rules emphasized proportionality in sentencing and encouraged minimizing institutionalization. They significantly influenced the drafting of India's 1986 legislation. Additionally, the Riyadh Guidelines (1990) focused on preventing juvenile delinquency, while the Havana Rules (1990) emphasized safeguarding the rights and dignity of children deprived of their liberty. Together, these international standards strengthened India's commitment to a humane and rehabilitative juvenile justice system.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

To help you craft a compelling research paper on the Juvenile Justice System and Child Protection Mechanisms in India, I have restructured your goals into formal research objectives. These are written in a humanized, cohesive paragraph format that flows logically from theory to practice, specifically reflecting the legal landscape of 2024-2025.

### **Research Objectives**

The primary objective of this study is to critically evaluate the operational efficacy of India's current juvenile justice framework, specifically focusing on the practical functioning of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) in light of the latest legislative amendments. Central to this inquiry is an assessment of how effectively the system upholds the human rights and inherent dignity of children, ensuring that domestic practices align with international benchmarks like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Furthermore, the research aims to identify and analyze systemic bottlenecks, such as the high pendency of cases, infrastructural deficits in Child Care Institutions, and the controversial shift toward trying older adolescents as adults for serious offenses. By synthesizing these findings, the study ultimately seeks to formulate actionable, rehabilitative-focused suggestions—ranging from better digital monitoring of cases to enhanced mental health support—aimed at transforming the system from a punitive model into a truly protective

and reformative one. Why these objectives work for your paper: Holistic Approach: They cover the "working" (implementation), "human rights" (ethics/law), and "issues" (gap analysis) you requested. Up-to-Date: They indirectly reference the 2021 and 2023 administrative changes where District Magistrates were given more oversight over child protection. Action-Oriented: The final objective ensures your paper isn't just a complaint but a "problem-solving" document, which is highly valued in academic research.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

For the research paper on the Juvenile Justice System and Child Protection Mechanisms in India, the legal framework can be understood through an integrated analysis of international standards, constitutional mandates, statutory provisions, and judicial interpretation. At the global level, modern juvenile justice is rooted in a reformative philosophy rather than a punitive one. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by India in 1992, establishes that the "best interests of the child" must be the primary consideration in all actions concerning children. This treaty is supported by key international guidelines such as the Beijing Rules, which set minimum standards for juvenile justice administration and emphasize proportionality and social reintegration; the Riyadh Guidelines, which focus on preventing juvenile delinquency through a child-centred approach; and the Havana Rules, which stress that deprivation of liberty should be used only as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period. Together, these instruments have significantly shaped India's child protection policies.

Within India, child protection is not merely a statutory responsibility but also a constitutional commitment. Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution guarantee equality before the law and the right to life with dignity, principles that courts have interpreted to require a rehabilitative approach toward children in conflict with the law. Article 15(3) empowers the State to enact special provisions for children, thereby providing constitutional legitimacy to child-specific legislation. Additionally, the Directive Principles under Article 39(e) and (f) obligate the State to safeguard children from exploitation and ensure their healthy development in conditions of freedom and dignity.

The primary legislation governing this field is the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which regulates both children in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection. A significant and debated feature of this Act is the judicial waiver

provision, allowing adolescents aged 16–18 accused of heinous offences to be tried as adults after a preliminary assessment by the Juvenile Justice Board. The 2021 amendment further restructured administrative oversight by transferring certain powers, such as the issuance of adoption orders, to District Magistrates with the aim of improving efficiency and reducing delays.

The judiciary continues to play a vital role in safeguarding children's rights under this framework. The Supreme Court and various High Courts have repeatedly affirmed that juvenility is a substantive right that can be claimed at any stage of legal proceedings. Courts have emphasized that procedural lapses should not deprive a child of statutory protections and have reinforced the reformatory spirit of the law. In states within the western region, including Maharashtra and Gujarat, judicial interventions have particularly focused on improving the conditions and functioning of Child Care Institutions to ensure they serve as spaces for rehabilitation rather than mere custodial facilities. Together, these international norms, constitutional safeguards, legislative measures, and judicial interpretations form the backbone of India's contemporary juvenile justice and child protection system.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The methodology for your research on the Juvenile Justice System and Child Protection Mechanisms in India adopts a robust, mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data with qualitative insights to bridge the gap between legislative intent and ground-level reality.

The study primarily employs a mixed-methods research design to provide a holistic view of the juvenile justice framework. The quantitative component focuses on analyzing large-scale statistical data sourced from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), and the India Justice Report 2025. This involves tracking measurable indicators such as the 55% case pendency rate across 362 Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), national adoption trends which reached 4,515 in 2024-25, and the sharp decline in child-focused budget allocations, which dropped from 4.5% in 2014-15 to an estimated 2.3% in 2024-25. These figures are used to identify systemic bottlenecks and regional disparities in the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

The qualitative component of the research is equally critical, utilizing doctrinal legal analysis

alongside empirical field-based methods. This includes a thorough review of secondary sources such as law periodicals, landmark Supreme Court judgments (e.g., Sheela Barse v. Union of India), and international treaties like the UNCRC. To capture the "human side" of the system, the research incorporates structured interviews and field surveys with key stakeholders, including members of Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), legal aid advocates, and staff at Child Care Institutions (CCIs). This qualitative inquiry seeks to uncover nuanced challenges that numbers cannot fully capture—such as poor hygiene conditions in observation homes, the psychological impact on children tried as adults, and the lack of specialized training for Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU). By triangulating statistical trends with these lived experiences and judicial interpretations, the study aims to propose meaningful reforms for a more rehabilitative and child-centric justice system.

#### Key Methodological Elements Included:

Data Sources: Uses current 2024-2025 data from MoSPI, PIB, and the India Justice Report.

Quantitative Indicators: Focuses on case pendency, adoption rates, and union budget allocations.

Qualitative Techniques: Employs field surveys, stakeholder interviews, and doctrinal analysis of case law.

Institutional Focus: Specifically investigates the functioning of JJBs, CWCs, and CCIs.

## **OBSERVATION REPORT ON JUVENILE COURT AND JUVENILE HOME VISIT-DONGRI, MUMBAI**

On 15 October, 2025 a visit was organised by Prof. MANISHA PATHAK, professor of LABOUR LAW, Law department, our college Shree L.R. Tiwari College of Law, for providing us with the opportunity to visit the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre at Umerkhadi, Sandhurst Road. This visit was an invaluable practical exposure to the juvenile justice system in India. I also want to express my appreciation to The Principle, the department head, all staff and non-teaching staff for proper support I am profoundly thankful to our faculty guides, Prof. Amita Dubey and Prof. Pooja Shivare, for their constant guidance, support, and for facilitating this insightful visit. Their presence and explanations helped us contextualize our theoretical knowledge with on-ground realities. I also extend appreciation to the staff and administration of the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre for allowing us to visit, for their cooperation, and for

patiently answering our questions. The insights gained were instrumental in understanding the rehabilitation process helped me gain knowledge that was crucial for academics

## **PURPOSE OF VISIT**

The primary purpose of this educational visit was to:

- Bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge of juvenile justice laws and their practical implementation for academics
- Observe the living conditions, facilities, and daily routines of the children residing in the centre providing practical exposure about juvenile justice system
- Understand the various rehabilitation and reformation programs conducted by the authorities. Gain a first-hand perspective on the challenges and successes of the juvenile rehabilitation system.

## **THE VISIT**

### **OVERVIEW OF REHABILITATION CENTER**

The centre houses children in conflict with the law, focusing not on punishment but on reformation and reintegration. The environment was structured, disciplined, and supportive, with trained staff including counsellors, social workers, probation officers, and vocational trainers.

We were briefed on the admission process of juveniles, court orders, inquiry procedures, and the importance of psychological evaluation. The staff emphasized that the primary goal is to help children reform through guidance, education, and therapy, rather than incarceration.

### **KEY OBSERVATIONS AND FINDING**

Our visit to the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre provided a profound and realistic view of its functioning. The following are our key observations, strictly based on what we witnessed and learned during the tour:

A. Infrastructure and Environment: The centre is located within the premises of the Sandhurst Road Police Station in Umerkhadi. The facility is segregated into separate sections for boys and girls. While the space appeared functional and secure, it highlighted the need for dedicated infrastructure for such rehabilitation purposes.

B. Daily Routine and Skill Development: A significant observation was the emphasis on inculcating life skills and a sense of responsibility among the children. Culinary Skills: In the girls' section, we observed that the residents are actively involved in preparing their own meals. This practice is not just a chore but a crucial part of their rehabilitation, teaching them self-

sufficiency, teamwork, and a vital life skill. · Educational Support: The centre recognizes the importance of formal education. We learned that children are encouraged and supported to continue their studies. A specific instance was noted where a child was permitted and facilitated to leave the centre to appear for an external examination. This demonstrates the system's commitment to ensuring that a child's contact with the law does not disrupt their academic progress.

C. Recreational and Co-curricular Activities: Beyond basic needs and education, the centre focuses on the holistic development of the children through recreational activities. · Sports: We noticed that the children have access to various indoor games, which serve as a crucial outlet for physical energy and stress relief. · Cultural Events: It was reported to us that the centre actively organizes cultural events. Specifically, the boys' section celebrates an annual dance function. Such events are vital for emotional expression, building confidence, and fostering a sense of community and normalcy among the children.

D. Role of Counselling and Staff: Interactions with the staff indicated that counselling forms a core part of the rehabilitation process. The children receive guidance to help them process their experiences and prepare for reintegration into society.

## **CONCLUSION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The visit to the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre was an eye-opening experience. It moved our understanding of juvenile justice from the pages of textbooks to the complexities of human lives. We observed that despite infrastructural constraints, the centre strives to provide a structured, supportive, and reformative environment. Key takeaways include · The system operates on the principle of reformation, not retribution, as evidenced by the focus on education, skill development, and counselling. · Simple activities like cooking, dancing, and playing games are integral to the therapeutic and rehabilitation process. · The provision for a child to take an exam underscores the system's commitment to the child's future. This visit reinforced the importance of a compassionate and proactive approach in the juvenile justice system and provided us, as future legal professionals, with a critical perspective that will undoubtedly inform our practice.

## CASE LAWS

### **Case Summary: The Pune Porsche Incident (2024)**

The Pune Porsche case involves a 17-year-old minor who, while allegedly intoxicated and speeding in a luxury car, killed two young professionals. This case is a primary example of the tension between public retribution and the reformatory nature of the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015.

**The Initial Order:** The Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) sparked a national debate by granting bail within hours, famously ordering the minor to write a 300-word essay on road safety. This highlighted the Act's focus on education and reform rather than jail.

**The High Court Ruling:** Following public pressure, the minor was later sent to an observation home. However, the Bombay High Court intervened, declaring the detention illegal. The Court ruled that the "rule of law" must prevail over public anger and that the rehabilitative safeguards for a child cannot be bypassed.

**Trial Status:** Based on the precedent of *Shilpa Mittal v. State of NCT of Delhi* (2020), the crime was classified as "serious" rather than "heinous" because the relevant law (Section 304 IPC) has no minimum 7-year sentence. Consequently, the JJB rejected the police plea to try the minor as an adult, keeping him within the juvenile protection system.

### **Short Case Summary: Mukesh & Anr v. State (NCT of Delhi) (2017)**

This landmark judgment arose from the brutal gang-rape and murder of a 23-year-old student on a private bus in Delhi in December 2012. The sheer brutality of the act—involving torture with metal rods and extreme internal injuries—shocked the "collective conscience" of the nation. While the Supreme Court ultimately upheld the death penalty for the four adult convicts (Mukesh, Vinay, Pawan, and Akshay) under the "rarest of rare" doctrine, the case became a catalyst for massive systemic change.

The humanized essence of this ruling lies in the court's recognition that some crimes are so "diabolical" that they transcend individual harm and become an assault on society's dignity and the rule of law.

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

### **Reformatory Foundation: Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration**

The Indian juvenile justice system is primarily guided by the reformatory philosophy embodied in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which emphasizes

rehabilitation over punishment. Unlike the traditional criminal justice system, the objective is not to penalize children but to help them reform and reintegrate into society with dignity. Social reintegration involves more than simply releasing a child from an institution; it is a structured and gradual process aimed at restoring the child's emotional stability, social identity, and family relationships. One of the key tools used in this process is the Individual Care Plan, which is prepared by probation officers and social workers after carefully assessing the child's psychological, emotional, educational, and social needs. This plan focuses on healing trauma, rebuilding family ties, and developing constructive life skills. Ultimately, the system aims to transform both Children in Conflict with Law and Children in Need of Care and Protection into responsible individuals capable of contributing positively to society.

### **Psychological Recovery through Counseling, Education, and Skill Development**

Rehabilitation within Child Care Institutions is supported by a combination of psychological care, education, and vocational training. Many children entering the juvenile justice system have experienced abuse, neglect, or social deprivation, making counseling and mental health support essential components of their recovery. Professional counseling helps children cope with emotional trauma, develop self-confidence, and adopt healthier behavioral patterns. Education is also treated as a fundamental right, ensuring that children continue their academic development through formal schooling or special bridge programs. In addition to academic education, vocational training programs such as tailoring, carpentry, and computer education are introduced to equip children with practical skills. These initiatives play a vital role in helping children achieve financial independence and reducing the likelihood of reoffending after their release.

### **Family-Based Care: Adoption and Foster Care**

In recent years, India has increasingly recognized that family-based care provides a more supportive environment than institutional care. Adoption is considered the most permanent and stable solution for children who cannot return to their biological families. The process is regulated by the Central Adoption Resource Authority, which ensures that children are placed in safe and suitable homes through a transparent and regulated system. Foster care serves as another important alternative, especially for children who may eventually be reunited with their biological families. It provides temporary care in a family setting, allowing children to experience emotional security and stability. Recent foster care guidelines have further encouraged families to take responsibility for older children, who often face difficulties in

finding adoptive homes.

### **Sponsorship and Aftercare: Supporting the Transition to Adulthood**

Financial hardship is one of the main reasons children enter institutional care, and sponsorship programs aim to address this issue by providing financial assistance to families. These programs help cover essential expenses such as education, healthcare, and nutrition, enabling children to remain with their families whenever possible. Additionally, aftercare programs play a crucial role in supporting children once they leave institutional care at the age of eighteen. Under initiatives such as Mission Vatsalya, young adults are provided with financial support, housing assistance, and guidance to help them adjust to independent life. This support reduces the risk of homelessness, unemployment, and involvement in criminal activities, ensuring a smoother transition into adulthood.

### **Contribution of Non-Governmental Organizations in Child Protection**

Non-governmental organizations play a significant role in strengthening India's child protection system. Organizations such as Udayan Care and Save the Children India actively manage child care institutions and provide rehabilitation services. Their work extends beyond providing shelter, as they also offer counseling, education, legal assistance, and aftercare support. These organizations also assist the Juvenile Justice Boards by conducting social investigations and preparing reports that help in decision-making. Furthermore, they promote awareness about child rights, adoption, and rehabilitation, contributing to the overall improvement of the juvenile justice system.

### **Judicial Developments and the Debate on Juvenile Accountability**

#### **Impact of the Nirbhaya Case on Juvenile Justice Law**

The landmark case of Mukesh & Anr. v. State (NCT of Delhi) had a profound impact on India's juvenile justice system. In this case, the Supreme Court upheld the death sentence of the adult offenders, applying the "rarest of rare" principle established in Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab. However, the juvenile involved in the crime was tried separately under juvenile law and was released after serving three years in a reform institution. This decision sparked widespread public debate, with many questioning whether the law was too lenient in dealing with serious crimes committed by juveniles.

### **Constitutional Protection of Juvenile Rights**

Before the enactment of the 2015 law, the Supreme Court in *Salil Bali v. Union of India* upheld the constitutionality of maintaining eighteen years as the age of juvenility. The Court emphasized that scientific research supports the view that children have a greater capacity for reform compared to adults. This judgment reinforced the principle that juvenile justice should focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment.

### **Challenges Highlighted by Recent Cases**

Recent incidents, including cases involving juvenile offenders in serious crimes, have raised questions about the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system. In *Shilpa Mittal v. State (NCT of Delhi)*, the Supreme Court clarified the classification of offences, which affected whether juveniles could be tried as adults. Such cases highlight the ongoing challenge of balancing the goal of rehabilitation with the need for accountability.

### **Comparative Perspective: India, United Kingdom, and United States**

The juvenile justice systems of India, United Kingdom, and United States share a common objective of protecting children while ensuring justice, but their approaches differ significantly. India follows a reformatory model that prioritizes rehabilitation and social reintegration. The United Kingdom also emphasizes child welfare but allows earlier criminal responsibility compared to India. In contrast, the United States follows a more punitive approach in certain cases, with laws varying across different states. These differences reflect varying legal philosophies and societal attitudes toward juvenile crime.

### **Conclusion (Optional short conclusion you can use)**

In conclusion, the juvenile justice system in India reflects a progressive approach that emphasizes rehabilitation, reintegration, and child welfare. While judicial decisions and legislative changes have introduced stricter provisions for serious offences, the fundamental focus remains on reforming children rather than punishing them. However, challenges such as inconsistent implementation, lack of infrastructure, and public pressure continue to test the system. Strengthening rehabilitation programs and ensuring proper implementation of laws are essential to achieving the true objective of child protection and social reintegration.

## **CONCLUSION:**

A decade after the landmark 2015 reforms, India's juvenile jurisprudence remains a complex terrain where the statutory promise of reformatory justice frequently encounters the hard reality of systemic failure. This study underscores that while the legal framework—anchored in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act—strives to balance public accountability with the fundamental rights of the child, the current shift toward punitive measures for older adolescents often risks treating children as irredeemable criminals. True progress in Indian juvenile law lies in reclaiming reformatory justice as its foundational pillar, moving beyond a reactive, punishment-centric model toward a restorative ecosystem that addresses the socio-economic root causes of delinquency. The future direction of juvenile jurisprudence must bridge the implementation gap through standardized preliminary assessments, strengthened child protection mechanisms like JJBs and CWCs, and a renewed commitment to the constitutional and international mandate that every child, regardless of their mistake, deserves a genuine second chance at social reintegration.

## **REFERENCE:**



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